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Tim Jensen

Stephen Lay

1980s

Fairbanks, Alaska

Series: University focus

University of Alaska campus in Fairbanks, Alaska

Tim Jensen said not too many places do you barbeque steak at 30 below. Steve Lay said Jensen, manager of the ARA Food Services on the campus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Jensen was referring to an emergency makeshift cooking system used after an equipment failure on steak night. The kitchen crew pressed into service their barbeque equipment usually only used during the summer. Lay said the steaks were cooked on time and the students weren't disappointed. University food services is constantly trying to please campus students.

Jensen said the student is no different than anyone else. The student diets have changed drastically since he was in school. They now offer five to ten salads each evening and a lot of fresh fruit. They steam all their vegetables. They find that the student is more conscious about nutrition. Lay said Jensen feels the days of just meat and potatoes are gone. Jensen said the most popular is corn and the least popular is spinach and squash. Lay said the complete balanced meals include a wide selection of desserts and vegetables. They have a choice of three meat entrees and unlimited seconds. The students can and do eat as much as they want. The unlimited seconds policy is not without its side effects. Jensen said in the spring when the students start shedding their clothes they realize they've gained a little weight. They then find a lot of dieting taking place. It is especially true of freshmen and new students. The students who have been here a while have learned their first year and on their second and third year you seem them taking more care about their choices. It is an educational thing for them. Atmosphere as well as selection are important elements in the university area dining areas. During the school year food services has special meals and entertainment add variety. Special menus are presented.

Stephen Lay reports on campus activities.